

## Solidarity clinches premiership

WARSAW (R) — President Wojciech Jaruzelski prepared Friday to announce a Solidarity leader as Poland's prime minister, and a Solidarity spokesman called it the final nail in the coffin of the Communist Party's rule. Solidarity's official newspaper said Jaruzelski was to appoint Lech Walesa, a Roman Catholic intellectual and leader of the union, as the head of a government dominated by non-Communists for the first time in 45 years. Jaruzelski met Walesa Friday. Walesa himself was overwhelmingly backed as prime minister by Solidarity and the two small parties which support its bid for power. But the 45-year-old shipyard electrician promptly declined the post. A spokesman said Walesa would lead formation of the government but not the government itself. "This is definitely the final nail in the coffin of the Communist party," Solidarity spokesman Janusz Ogiński said. "This is seen as something outdated. It is the end of the whole concept."

# Jordan Times

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## CBJ lowers dollar rate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has announced its readiness to supply commercial banks and licensed financial companies with foreign exchange at 730 fils to the dollar to be sold to the public at the rate of 735 fils without charging any exchange commission, effective Aug. 19, 1989. A CBJ statement issued Friday said the foreign currency will be used to meet various needs which were not mentioned in the list of basic and subsidised commodities and for students' expenditures studying abroad. The decision comes in light of the CBJ follow-up on foreign currency markets and in implementation of the policy designed to attain dinar stability.

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## King holds talks in Baghdad

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with Agency dispatches

**BAGHDAD —** His Majesty King Hussein held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein here Friday with the main focus on the situation in Lebanon.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and the Iraqi leader held a round of talks immediately after the King's arrival in Baghdad earlier in the day. The talks covered the latest developments in the region, bilateral relations and issues related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen — and a forthcoming meeting of the ACC foreign ministers, it said.

In the context of Lebanon, the two leaders emphasized "the historical responsibility of the Arab



His Majesty King Hussein with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Friday

Nation towards Lebanon and the necessity to review it on the pan-Arab national level," Petra said.

The King is believed to be trying to find a common ground between Iraq and Syria in the stand-off in Lebanon, where Damascus supports the civilian government of Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss while

Iraq backs a rival military cabinet headed by army commander Michel Aoun. Reports from Beirut indicated that artillery battles were continuing between Syrian troops and allied Lebanese militiamen on the one hand and forces loyal to Aoun and rightist militiamen on the other despite a call by the United Nations Security Council for a ceasefire.

Reports also said that a tripartite Arab panel made up of Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco have revived its mediation bid and had drawn up a list of "refreshing ideas" to settle the Lebanese conflict.

The King is accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thouqan Al Hindawi, the

King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi.

An officially unconfirmed report by the Associated Press said the King and the Iraqi President also held a round of talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Baghdad. Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad Thursday, was expected to visit Amman for talks with the King and to reopen offices of the Palestine National Fund (PNF).

In the Baghdad talks the three leaders were to review the "recent escalation of violence in Lebanon and moves by the Arab countries to bring an end to the bloodletting and to help solve the Lebanese crisis," said Azzam Al Ahmad, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Baghdad.

At Jordan Times press time, there was no confirmation by Petra of a tripartite meeting in Baghdad and it was not known whether Arafat would come to Jordan. The King's visit to Baghdad was described by Petra as a short working visit, indicating that he could return home late Friday or early Saturday.



Israeli soldiers push and pull a Palestinian after arresting him in the occupied West Bank.

## Sharif Zaid: Economic measures bearing fruit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The economic and financial measures designed to rectify the economic situation and restore stability to the dinar which the Jordanian government adopted since its formation have begun to bear fruit and attain their objectives, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker said Friday.

In a televised interview in the weekly programme "Current Affairs" carried by Jordan Television, the prime minister said that the government's first priority was to reschedule foreign debts. "We held negotiations through the Paris Club with the countries that extended loans used in development projects and armament and we succeeded in reschedul-

ing this part of debt," he noted.

Noting that a meeting will be held with creditor commercial banks through the London Club, the prime minister said that when the government assumed responsibility in April, "the reserves of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) were very little, but following the recent measures the reserves rose to over \$400 million." The government's plans concentrated on tackling financial problems through building reserves of foreign currency in the CBJ, he said.

The prime minister paid tribute to the aid the Arab countries gave to Jordan, foremost of whom was Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf countries.

"The aid presented by Arab brothers is valuable. We highly appreciate this but we have to live within our capabilities and national income since foreign aid will not last for ever," the prime minister said.

Kuwait, he continued, will initiate a meeting among the central banks governors of the Gulf countries and Jordan so as to reach agreement about keeping a deposit in the CBJ in order to help build reserves and stabilise the dinar's rate of exchange.

On freedom of expression and press, the prime minister said: "We believe in freedom provided it is responsible and it concentrates on the country's welfare and stability. We also believe in constructive criticism

in which the critic seeks the country's benefit and the people's unity."

He said that the government was also seeking private sector contribution in the ownership of press, hotel, and tourism establishments.

Touching on parliamentary elections and the national charter, the prime minister said that the government had set the date of election in accordance with His Majesty the King's letter of designation. The King, he said, will form a committee from various political trends in the country to draft the national charter.

On the establishment of private universities, the prime

minister said that his government's decision was designed to absorb the increasing number of students willing to attend universities.

The prime minister called on the superpowers to pressure Israel so as to respond to the will of the world in general and the Palestinian people in particular and attain just peace in the region. He also noted that Jordan supports an independent Lebanon in which a national government practices full control of all the Lebanese soil. He said that Jordan supports every Arab or international effort to attain peace, security and stability in Lebanon.

## Ghandour resigns, named royal advisor

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has accepted the resignation of Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman and Chief Executive Ali Ghandour and named him his first advisor on aviation and tourism affairs, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Friday. No immediate successor to Ghandour at the RJ post was named.

The King also conferred upon Ghandour the Renaissance Medal of the First Order.

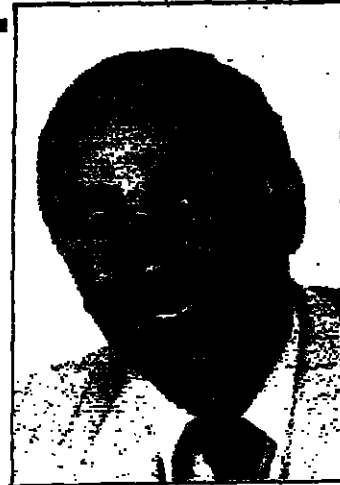
In a message he sent to Ghandour accepting the resignation, the King said that he had received the RJ chairman's request to be relieved of his duties and expressed full understanding of Ghandour's right to a rest after 27 years of dedicated work for the national cause.

The King highlighted two facts that he felt "necessary to help in comprehending the role of RJ and its progress."

The King pointed out that since Jordan is mainly an island country, with Amman as its only sea outlet, air transport is the Kingdom's major means for communication with the outside world.

"In this context, I point out this means was provided, in the first years of my responsibility, by companies carrying Jordan's name while in fact they were equipped with foreign aeroplanes and crews," the King said. "These companies used to take the aircraft that were put out of service on the international lines and take advantage of Jordan's name and rights to continue facilitating these lines, and making material profit on Jordan's account, disregarding the country's needs and best interest, not caring to train Jordanians in this modern field, vital in the countries' lives and economies."

The King told Ghandour: "When I decided to rectify this abnormal situation, I found you, an Arab aeronautics engineer, enthusiastic, willpower and aimed, full of energy, willpower and always taking the initiative. So I entrusted you with the aviation, thus spearheading the blessed trip of the Royal Jordanian Airlines 27 years ago."



Ali Ghandour

"His Majesty also pointed out that today the salaries of RJ employees are double the paid-up capital of the airline, which employs over 5,000 Jordanians and offers housing for most of them and that it operates flights with many planes around the world competing with other airlines. Its international reputation puts it among the top airlines in the region and among the first well-known airlines, the King said. The various training facilities offered by RJ also attract many Jordanian and Arab youth and the airlines technical workshops not only fulfill its own needs, but also serve the region, he said. All these developments had tangible contributions from Ghandour, he added.

"You have been honest and you have endeavored what I have entrusted you with," the King told Ghandour.

The King made a reference to the aftermath of the 1967 war when the corporation's fleet and ground stations incurred heavy losses as a result of direct bombing by Israeli jet fighters. And yet it rebounded to become a well-established national carrier not only on the regional but on the global level, he noted.

The King paid further tribute to Ghandour's efforts and vision planning over the years which enabled RJ to stand on its feet.

## Arab panel said to revive mediation

## Artillery duels rage in Beirut's northern front

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Tanks and artillery battled across a strategic frontline north of Beirut Friday and Syria sent reinforcements to back its troops and allied Lebanese militias fighting forces loyal to army commander Michel Aoun, security sources said.

The Syrian and allied forces traded fire with troops of Aoun at Madfoun, the frontline separating the northern edge of the Lebanese Christian enclave from the Syrian-policed north, the sources said.

The fighting rocked an already fragile U.N.-backed ceasefire and a French diplomatic campaign to end five months of fighting that has killed 750 people and wounded 3,000.

Syria sent more reinforcements and soldiers to the Madfoun front, the sources said. The two foes clashed at the front Tuesday when some 300 Syrian soldiers backed by the tanks advanced onto an army checkpoint on a bridge 40 kilometres north of the Lebanese capital.

Meanwhile, three Arab states have revived attempts to bring peace to Lebanon with a plan calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, diplomatic sources said Friday.

They told Reuters the Arab League committee of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria had given copies of the "national reconciliation charter," to several ambassadors, including those of the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members, in Rabat five days ago.

The plan envisages a ceasefire, revival of Lebanese sovereignty throughout the divided country, the renewal of constitutional authority and wide-ranging political reform, the sources said.

The diplomatic sources said

they regarded the proposed charter as a sound basis for ending 15 years of civil war, adding that Western states were likely to throw their weight behind the revival of the Arab League peace mission.

Envoy from the three Arab states have shuttled back and forth between Beirut, Damascus and Baghdad in recent months but their mission ended in an announcement of failure last month.

The sources said the new plan called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops, who patrol a self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, and urged a phased Syrian military pullout.

The charter also outlined a shift of executive power from the presidency to the cabinet, placing responsibility for policy in the hands of the prime minister and his ministers.

The president would become a symbol of national unity and would join the cabinet as a non-voting member.

He would be able to delay cabinet decrees for up to 30 days, but could not veto legislation.

Lebanon has had no president since parliament failed to elect a successor to outgoing president Amin Gemayel last September.

Under the new plan, cabinet decisions would be made by consensus, and when that was not possible, by a simple majority.

Mobilisation for war, declaring a state of emergency, dissolving parliament and approving the budget were among key issues that would need a two-thirds cabinet majority, the sources said.

The charter proposed parliament should have 50 more members, making a total of 128 deputies. Parliamentarians would be appointed by the prime minister in consultation with his ministers until elections could be held.

Freedom of education would be assured and all militias and paramilitary groups disbanded, the sources added.

The charter proposes phasing out of Lebanon's current system of sharing parliamentary seats and top government positions among the various religious communities.

At present, the Christian Maronite minority take the lion's share, while Muslim and nationalist groups have insisted on a greater say in government as a prerequisite for ending the slaughter that began in April, 1975.

Top jobs in the armed forces and civil administration would no longer be reserved for certain religious factions and parliamentary seats would gradually be divided between Muslims and Christians.

The diplomatic sources said the charter was the result of continuous attempts during May and June by the three Arab states' envoys to find common ground between all parties.

In Beirut and the mountains to the east and south-east of the city, the warring factions took advantage of the second day of relative calm to fortify positions, security sources said.

## Israel enforces new rules on Arab access from Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Both Israelis and Palestinians claimed victory Friday as the occupation army imposed tough restrictions on Arabs travelling from the occupied Gaza Strip to Israel.

Israeli authorities claimed about 6,000 people crossed into Israel, ignoring a call by underground Palestinian leaders to boycott work in Israel to protest against new plastic identification cards men must have to leave the strip.

But Palestinians estimated a maximum of 1,000 people crossed. They said there were far fewer cars than normal entering Israel and that most carried no passengers.

The real test comes Sunday, the first day of the new card system when traffic of up to 25,000 people would be normal.

Traffic into Israel was light from both Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Israeli soldiers arrested two masked Arab youths near the Erez crossing into Israel who were trying to block workers from going to Israel, the army said.

Near Khan Yunis, a small boy was injured by flying glass when masked youths stoned the car in which he was riding, apparently to disrupt traffic to Israel. Palestinian reporters said. The child was not seriously hurt.

Graffiti in Gaza City had called for a two-week strike starting Friday to protest the new ID cards, and a leaflet from the uprising's leaders urged a one-week sympathy strike by West Bankers who work in Israel.

Israeli officials say the card system is intended to prevent those with "criminal or security" records from entering Israel.

Palestinians say the system is a further attempt by Israel to quell the revolt against occupation by putting an economic squeeze on Gaza, where poverty is widespread and few jobs are available.

Police said, meanwhile, that two ultra-orthodox Jews, one an American and the other a Swiss, were arrested at Ben Gurion airport while trying to bring in \$1.25 million, and Israeli news reports said police suspected the money was to finance the Palestinian uprising.

Yaacov Shoval, a police spokesman, said the two were arrested on suspicion of bringing in the money for illegal purposes, but he would not say whether the case was linked to the uprising.

The Maariv daily said police were investigating whether the two were connected to a group of ultra-orthodox non-Zionist Jews arrested in the past of fostering the revolt. The group believes the creation of the state of Israel is against God's will.

Gazan workers asked about the cards Friday said they felt caught between the Israeli occupation authorities and the uprising's popular committees, whose enforcers have been seizing the cards to disrupt the system.

Saber Abu Sabaan, a 40-year-old father of 10 children, said he had been working in Israel for years but refused to get the new card, only to see it taken away by uprising activists.

"I was trying to work, but feeding my kids does not mean I love Israel," he said.

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## Rafsanjani assumes presidency demanding U.S. concessions

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's new leader Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has begun his presidency insisting on American concessions to end a decade of hostility before hostages in Lebanon are set free.

Rafsanjani, sworn in Thursday, was under pressure to take a radical line. Statements from Iran indicated that the radicals and those regarded as pragmatists were a long way from settling their differences.

"I have said many times that if the United States expects us to help in the Lebanese issue, it should show in practice that it has stopped its hostile stand against us," Rafsanjani told Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who is apparently mediating in the hostage crisis.

French envoy Alain Decaux discussed with Aoun ways to enforce the U.N. ceasefire call which entails an end to tit-for-tat sea and land blockades, a main cause of the latest round of violence.

"To see how our officials move after (Khomeini)," said Ahmad, who has no official position but carries weight as the torch bearer of the ayatollah's views.

"Economic hardship was the centerpiece of Rafsanjani's inauguration speech, in which he said ideology could not take precedence over bread-and-butter issues."

"Times are very different from the past. It is not right to safeguard the nation with the hungry, poor people marching forward and giving their life. It cannot go on like this."

Last week Rafsanjani said Iran would cooperate to free the Western hostages, believed to number 17, if Washington gave assurances it would release Iranian assets frozen a decade ago.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ









### Prince Mohammad visits army HQ

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein Thursday called at the Armed

Forces Headquarters in Amman and met with Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb (Petra photo).

## Queen briefed on health communication project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor was presented Thursday with a detailed briefing on the health communication project which is being implemented by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Academy for Educational Development (USAED).

Dr. Sima Bahhou, the project director, and Dr. Ayman Abu Laban a specialist in project assessment, presented details of the communication project which entailed radio and television messages designed to improve mother and child health level in Jordan through orienting the public on the benefits of good, healthy habits such as breast feeding and birth spacing.

The messages were broadcast in May, June and July and were prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) according to NHF sources.

According to Bahhou, the messages attracted 93 per cent of television viewers and 95 per cent of radio listeners in Jordan.

The Queen and those attending the briefing gave some remarks on the subject and all agreed that further campaigns of this kind were necessary and will continue.

NHF experts believe that the project, which was initiated in 1987, will further advance Jordan's overall health objectives through the mass media programmes that advocate appropriate family health and child survival technologies in such fields, as oral rehydration, birth spacing, breast feeding, respiratory ailments and environmental sanitation.

Among those present at the briefing, which took place at the NHF offices were Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali, Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan and representatives of USAID, UNICEF, UNRWA and UN-AED and the U.S. Save the Children Fund.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday visits Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Also present are Minister of Health and Social Development Zuhair Malhas,

Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali and Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan (Petra photo).

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**LOAN FOR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL:** The Cabinet has decided to re-lend a loan from the Saudi Development Fund to the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation to finance the second expansion stage of the Amman Industrial School. The loan to be given for this project amounts to 33 million Saudi riyals. (Petra)

**LAWZI MEETS TURKISH MP:** Upper House of Parliament Speaker and Head of the Jordanian parliamentary delegation to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) has received a memorandum from the head of the Turkish parliamentary delegation to the IPU dealing with the Turkish minority in Bulgaria and the hard circumstances it has gone through. The memorandum touches on the Turkish delegation's determination to raise this issue at the 82nd international parliamentary conference scheduled to convene in London in early September. Lawzi, on his part, stressed Jordan's position which calls for tackling this issue in accordance with the international law and voiced his determination to coordinate positions with the other Arab and Islamic parliamentary delegations in order to reach a just solution to this issue. (Petra)

**TEAM RETURNS FROM TRANSPORT TALKS:** The Jordanian delegation to the Jordan-Iraq Land Transport Company returned home Thursday after taking part in the board of directors meeting which concluded recently in Baghdad. The meetings dealt with expanding the activities of the company outside Iraq and Jordan as well as reviewing the company's financial report for the first part of this year, the company's Deputy Director General Suleiman Habbabeh said. He added that the board of directors presented to the ministers of transport and telecommunications in both countries a proposal related to recognising truck driving licences issued in both countries. (Petra)

**RJ ATTENDS ACC CIVIL AVIATION MEETING:** Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, took part in a joint meeting by the commercial and financial committees set up by the United Council on Civil Aviation in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries which was held in Cairo lately. Dr. Majdi Sabri, director of RJ's marketing and sales who attended the meeting, said that cooperation between the national airlines, removing restrictions in air travel and unifying marketing policies were among the main items discussed. (Petra)

**RJ TRANSPORTS 35,179 PASSENGERS:** Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, issued a statistical bulletin disclosing that its aircraft transported 35,179 passengers in the first week of August, 1989. The bulletin said that RJ aircraft carried 1,108 tonnes of goods to different destinations in the same period. (Petra)

**JORDAN ATTENDS ABU TALKS:** Jordan is taking part in a meeting by the administrative council of the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU) which started in Tunis Thursday. Issues related to the exchange of news programmes, which is being conducted through a centre in Algeria, and the work of the Damascus-based Radio and Television Training Centre will be discussed at the meeting. Delegates from 11 Arab countries and experts in broadcasting are taking part in the meeting. Usama Asfour from Radio Jordan is leading a team of engineers and officials to the meeting. (Petra)

**ARAB MEDIA STANDING COMMITTEE TO MEET:** Jordan will participate in the 47th regular session of the Arab Media Standing Committee due to convene in Tunis Monday. The three-day meetings will discuss on matters related to developing joint Arab action in the field of media through the implementation of a joint Arab plan in this regard. Jordan is represented by Ministry of Information Secretary General Trad Al Fayez, Jordan News Agency Director General Ali Sa'adi, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production Jawad Maraga, and the Jordan News Agency correspondent in Tunisia. (Petra)

**MARITIME COMPANY GETS NEW SHIP:** The Jordan National Maritime Company has received a new ship it bought from a Norwegian company at the cost of \$6,650,000. This ship, which can take a load of 16,000 tonnes, will be operational along a new line linking Aqaba port with the ports in the Far East and the Red Sea. The new ship, to be called Jordan 1, will transport goods such as phosphate, fertilisers, cement and potash. (Petra)

**QATARI EMIR RECEIVES JORDANIAN ENVOY:** The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani had a meeting in Doha with Khaled Awamleh, Jordan's ambassador to Qatar. The Emir discussed with the ambassador, who is ending his tour of duty in the Gulf state, several topics related to Jordanian-Qatari cooperation in a number of fields. The ambassador was presented with Qatar's highest medal for his services. (Petra)

**HIJAZ RAILWAY LINE:** The Transport and Telecommunication Ministry is currently considering restoring the Hijaz Railway Line between Amman and Damascus which stopped functioning years ago. (Petra)

**APU COUNCIL ENDS TALKS IN DUBAI:** The Postal Services and Postal Savings Corporation has participated in the Arab Postal Union Executive Council meetings which concluded in Dubai on Aug. 15. The meetings dealt with a review of a number of proposals as well as possible nominees to fill vacant posts in the International Postal Union. The conferees also studied the draft budget of the Arab Postal Union for 1990. (Petra)

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITION

★ A plastic art exhibition by Jordanian Artist Maha Abu 'Ayyash at the Plastic Artists Association, Shamsiad.

#### FESTIVAL

★ A cultural festival including exhibitions of books, paintings and national documents, as well as documentary films, lectures and poetry recitals at Eder Sports Club, Karak.

## Voter cards to differ from one constituency to another

AMMAN (J.T.) — Voters in the coming parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 8 will be issued new voter cards which differ from one constituency to another, according to a decision taken by the Ministry of Interior.

The cards will be issued by provincial governors and distributed through the registration centres in each governorate, according to the decision announced at a meeting held in Amman Thursday chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh.

The statement said that the procedure will be conducted

immediately, and the cards will be issued to eligible voters as soon as possible once the voter lists have been finalised.

Questions related to campaigning for the elections and the need to strictly abide by the law which prohibits such campaigns before 25 days from election day, were discussed at the meeting which was attended by provincial governors, directors of the Public Security and the Civil Registration and Passports Departments and other Ministry of Interior officials.

Last Tuesday the ministry announced that preparation for the final version of the

voters list for the coming parliamentary elections in November were underway now that the process of registering voters had ended.

Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker announced Wednesday evening that the elections will be held on Nov. 8, and said that they would be conducted under provisions stipulated in the amended election law of 1986.

Nominations for candidates will take place during a period of three days starting Oct. 14, the elections will be conducted in one day on Nov. 8 and the counting of votes will be completed in the following day.

## Jordan seeks to tie debts to Moscow with trade — Masri

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Soviet Union has agreed in principle to reschedule Jordan's repayment of its debts owed to Moscow for the years 1989 and 1990 amounting to \$190 million, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taher Al Masri has said.

"The Soviet Union has agreed 'in principle' to reschedule the debt, but we are trying to tie it up with selling goods to the USSR, including Jordanian phosphates with an annual average in the range of 200,000 to 500,000 tonnes," Masri told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. According to industry sources, the average price of one tonne of phosphate is in the range of \$45 to \$50, free on board Aqaba.

On Thursday, Masri was quoted by Reuters as saying that under an accord to be sealed in September, some of the payments will be rescheduled over ten years with six years' grace.

He was also quoted as saying that delay in signing is mainly to decide the volume and prices of Jordanian exports in the barter portion of the deal. "Each one will have to define the items and prices and then we will go to Moscow again in September to sign the accord," Masri told the news agency.

Masri, who returned to Amman Tuesday from a week-long visit to the Soviet Union, said Amman and Moscow had also reached agreement to set up joint ventures.

The agreement, he said, came during a meeting in Moscow last week of a joint Jordanian-Soviet committee attended by Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Mohammad Saqqaf. "Under the protocol, we hope to establish joint trade ventures



Taher Al Masri

to increase trade between the two countries," Masri said. The envisaged action includes trade fairs in both countries, he added.

The joint committee also signed the first trade protocol to further increase economic and technical cooperation between the two sides, agreeing to equal exchanges in 1989-1990 totalling \$50 million, according to a Jordanian official quoted by Reuters.

Soviet exports to Jordan in 1988, mainly iron ore, paper, machinery, timber and chemicals were worth JD 4.5 million (around \$7.5 million at official exchange rates), Reuters said, adding that Jordan exported nothing to the Soviet Union.

The Moscow talks on debts came in line with Jordan's moves to reschedule repayments of its \$8 billion foreign debts.

The Kingdom has already reached agreement with the Paris Club of creditor nations to reschedule about \$2 billion in repayments for the years 1989 and 1990. It is hoping for similar arrangements with the London Club of creditor banks and other financial institutions in negotiations expected to be held soon.

## ACC justice ministers to meet in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Ministers of Justice in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries are due to meet in Baghdad Wednesday to discuss unifying judicial legislations in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen, according to Iraqi Minister of Justice Akram Abdul Qader Ali.

The minister said that the legislations in question pertain to

civil courts, judicial procedures, training of judges and public prosecutors.

Means of developing exchanges of expertise in judicial matters and holding conferences and seminars on judicial issues will also be discussed at the meeting, the minister added.

He said that the heads of the Arab countries decided on the Baghdad meeting during their Alexandria summit.

**MADABA GETS JD 33,000 GRANT:** Madaba municipality has been granted JD 33,000 from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to help repair the city streets. The mayor, Ahmad Osteish, said that part of the grant will be used to repair the Madaba-Karak Road. (Petra)

## Jordan to allow import of West Bank olive oil to meet local needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Any amounts of West Bank olive oil will be allowed into Jordan to meet the local needs of this commodity, according to the decision by Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran.

Jordan faces a shortage of olive oil which is much in demand here as a result of poor harvest this year and due to earlier exportation of surplus oil to Arab and foreign countries, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra quoted the minister also as saying that Jordan will allow other agricultural products, such as vegetables and fruit, to be marketed in Jordan but there will

be a study of the local market needs of each type of these products so that imports from the West Bank will not have a negative effect on Jordan's own agricultural situation.

Badran said in his statement that the Ministry of Agriculture was preparing a draft law to unify all sources of agricultural credit.

The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) will be entrusted with the task of giving loans to farmers in accordance with the new law which will have to be endorsed by the Higher Agricultural Council before it can be put into force, the minister said.

To help farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture is maintaining a

policy of providing all farmers with like fertilisers and seeds, reasonable and subsidised prices.

In addition, Badran said, government has opened up the private sector to various types of agricultural activities provided they fit the need of the local market.

Agricultural products are being exported by Jordan through land transport, mostly to the Arab countries.

Badran said that the Ministry of Agriculture is also developing "biotechnology" in Jordan and providing technical requirements for the breeders and farmers.

## Ministry studies ACC transport pacts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications is currently studying a series of agreements on land, air and maritime transport to normalise transportation among the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries, Minister of Transport Hikmat Al Khammash said Thursday.

Once the agreements have been adopted and endorsed, more transport facilities and freedoms will be available to all carriers, the minister said at a meeting with a team representing the Union of Truck Owners in Jordan.

The minister and the team reviewed a number of problems that impede the work of trucks during their travel from and into Jordan and a number of measures were approved to remove all obstacles.

The minister announced that a Saudi Arabian team will visit Jordan shortly to discuss matters related to fees imposed on trucks upon entry into Saudi Arabia and visas that should be issued for the drivers.

He said that Ministry of Transport is contemplating the idea of

increasing the rate of inter-transporting goods by truck in the light of the recent increase in the price of gasoline and tires.

A team of technicians and experts is involved in studying the local market in order to prepare for the next step, the minister added.

As to other problems structuring land transportation, the minister said, he will be taken to remove bilateral agreements between Jordan and the concerned countries.

## Abu Qoura to visit Europe societies

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Ahmad Abu Qoura announced Friday that he will be making visits to Bulgaria, Switzerland and Italy to discuss matters related to the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world.

Abu Qoura said in a statement that he will discuss with the Bulgarian Red Cross Society bolstering cooperation between the Jordanian and Bulgarian societies and coordinating their stands at an international conference for the Red Cross and Red Crescent

societies due in October.

In Geneva, Abu Qoura noted, he will meet with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officials to discuss an agenda for the coming meeting. Later, Abu Qoura is due to take part in a round table meeting on international humanitarian law which will be convened at San Remo in Italy on Sept. 12.

The five-day meeting in Italy, Abu Qoura said, will discuss matters related to providing protection to refugees rendered homeless as a result of armed conflict, among other issues.

According to a JNRCS state-

ment Friday, a society composed of three members will take part in an international youth camp which is sponsored by the ICRC.

The camp, which will be held in Italy and Geneva, will, group members of youth working in the societies around the world, according to ICRC officials.

The statement said that several seminars and programmes are planned to be conducted during the camp.

## GUVS to set up 4 new centres for rehabilitation of retarded

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan has embarked on setting up four centres for the rehabilitation of mentally retarded children in Madaba, Sahab, Eidoun and Mafraq at the total estimated cost of JD 200,000.

A GUVS spokesman said that once the four centres had been

set up work will start on three similar centres in Ma'an, Aqaba, and Zarqa.

The establishment of these centres, the spokesman said, is part of a GUVS general plan to promote rehabilitation services to handicapped children in Jordan.

He said that work meanwhile is going on for the establishment of the multi-disabled rehabilitation

centre at Yaloum, which is expected to cost about JD 150,000.

Last December, Her Majesty Queen Noor lay the foundation stone for the centre, which will be known as Al Amman Centre for the Multi-disabled Rehabilitation, five and 10 years.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

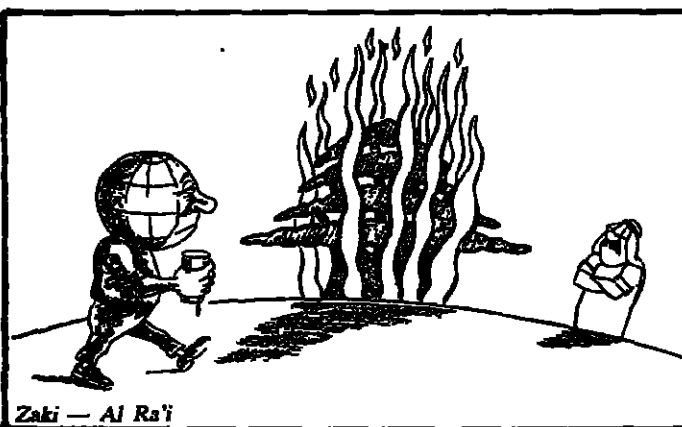
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## Natural reward

AS JORDANIANS continue celebrating the appreciation of their currency against hard currencies in the tune of 35 per cent over the last few days, the eyes of everybody are set to see how this much awaited appreciation will effect their cost of living. Surely this hard won victory deserves the natural reward of a drop in the prices of the imported goods and manufactured products. The country remembers well how the business community exploited the depreciation of the dinar to their advantage by charging the public prices that did not in fact reflect their actual costs. If our merchants and traders this time also take the Jordanian customers for a ride by charging them prices that reflect the old exchange rate of the dinar, then somebody must step in and put an end to this perpetual greed and utter abuse and exploitation of the public.

Unfortunately the Consumer Protection Society has yet to start its operations and responsibilities in defence of Jordanian consumers who got wary of permanent abuse. That is why it is incumbent on the relevant authorities to issue guidelines to the people as well as to the business community on how to reflect the appreciation of the dinar in the complicated equation that determines the retail prices of imported goods.

The least that Jordanians expect now is the reduction in prices of airline tickets which were recently hiked up ostensibly because of the depreciation of the dinar in the last few weeks. Now that that depreciation has been reversed, it is only natural that the prices of tickets must be reduced accordingly. And what applies to tickets must also apply to cars, appliances and every item of goods that the country imports. When this happens, the cost of living will accordingly drop few points at least. As must be appreciated, the sky rocketing cost of living in Jordan has hit most Jordanians with a vengeance. The stoic acceptance of steep increases in prices of goods and services in the Kingdom deserves a break now that the principal cause has been rectified to a considerable extent. Let us hope that this much sought relief is forthcoming.



Zaki - Al Ra'i

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN daily newspapers gave a wide coverage to the improvement in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar, describing it as a very positive development contributing towards enhancing the nation's monetary and financial standing. Al Ra'i daily said that the situation is a source of deep satisfaction for all Jordanians who feel quite gratified with the measures taken by the Central Bank of Jordan. The sense of national awareness should continue and help abort all hostile attempts to destabilise the national economy, said the paper. It has become clear for all now that the crisis was mainly caused by illegitimate speculations and by hostile campaigns directed on Jordan's economy, the paper continued. King Hussein himself led the way for Jordanians to show a great deal of unity and tenacity when he announced that the nation will not succumb to pressure and can never give in to coercion come what may, the paper added. It said that Jordan will remain committed to backing all Arab causes foremost of which is the Palestine cause and the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses the situation in Lebanon in the light of the all-out war between the conflicting parties and the intervention of outside forces. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the Arab masses were pained at the loss of life and the wide destruction in Iraq as a result of the Iraq-Iran war and backed Baghdad in its attempts to fend off the Iranian aggression and to achieve peace in the Gulf. The Arab masses also were jubilant over the end of the Gulf conflict and now seek to establish a permanent peace in the Gulf area, says the writer. But he adds, the Arab masses are pained to see the same conflict flaring up again on Lebanese soil and pained even more to see the armies of two Arab countries locked up in battle in Lebanon, benefiting Israel and the enemies of the Arab Nation. The writer refers to the Arab League's call on the Syrian army to leave Lebanon but expresses disappointment over the league's failure to take some action to drive the Israeli occupation forces from the embattled country.

Al Dustour discussed Lebanon in the light of a call by the U.N. Security Council for a ceasefire. The paper said that call reflects an increasing international concern over the situation in Lebanon following the latest outbreak of war that involves several parties. The council expressed support for the Arab League in its endeavours to end the bloodshed should prompt the mediation committee to resume its mission, the paper noted. It said that the return of the Arab League to the arena would no doubt keep the crisis within the Arab World and prevent any internationalisation of the problem. The paper said Jordan supports the U.N. Security Council and the Arab League in their efforts to end the long ordeal of Lebanon and wishes that all the warring parties will respond to the peaceful efforts.

## Is Gorbachev going to succeed?

By Anders Aslund

NO THREAT to President Mikhail Gorbachev looks more fateful than the economic crisis. Its resemblance to the Polish quandary in the early 1980s is not limited to the sooty faces of striking workers. The roots of these two economic crises are too similar. Shortages that grew ever worse disrupted the Polish economy and outraged the consumers. They were caused by a steadily increasing gap between supply and demand, as wages surged beyond control, while it was politically impossible to let prices loose. Now, the Soviet Union is facing the same dilemma, its growing queues and widespread rationing reflect the worst shortages since Stalin. Wage ceilings have been abolished with the reform, permitting wages to rise excessively because state enterprises remain insensitive to costs and compete for scarce labour.

The reform has also allowed state enterprises the easy choice to produce expensive profitable commodities or cheap unprofitable ones. Naturally, they prefer to produce less for more. With the prevailing scarcities, anything can be sold. The man in the street, on the contrary, wants more to buy. He calls for strict price controls in a vain hope to force enterprises to produce more. Alas, the result is the

well-known growing gap between supply and demand. The whole economy is moving into a state of chaos, and the population is becoming thoroughly demoralised. Why work, when there is nothing to buy?

At the height of the Polish crisis, ministers succeeded each other at an extraordinary speed. The flux almost brought the state administration to a halt. The many commands that were necessary for the running of the economy were never issued. Any action exposed a decision-maker to excessive personal risks. It was more rewarding to concentrate on personal intrigues, facilitating promotions.

The current Soviet situation appears far worse. Hardly anyone can keep up even with the composition of the Soviet government. The mastodon state administration has seen its staff reduced by one quarter — 600,000 people, while its work load has increased. So far, Gorbachev has failed to purge the party apparatus. Instead, he has deprived it of effective leadership, leaving the party in a state of complete confusion. The administrative chaos is a sufficient reason for a fall in production, presumably, it started last year, although it has been hidden in inflated statistics.

Polish officials may protest that their crisis erupted because of the sudden cut of vital imports from



the West, but most Polish reformers think they exaggerate, and so do I. It was only an auxiliary reason. Conversely, the USSR cannot be saved by its creditworthiness. The radical Soviet economist Nikolai Shmelev has advocated large-scale imports of consumer goods to mitigate the shortages, but the chief Soviet planner Yuri Maslyukov recently retorted that "no foreign uncle will solve this problem for us." The mechanism that generates the shortages must be amended before foreign credits can do much good.

It must not be forgotten that

Poland had some advantages over the Soviet Union. It had a large private sector that thrived during the crisis and provided the country with bumper harvests, and Poland had no national or regional tensions worth mentioning.

But what about the Polish strikes? They were effects rather than causes of the economic crisis. Dismal standards of living were declining further, while workers were no longer afraid. The same is now true of the USSR. Tocqueville, as well as Lenin, called such a situation revolutionary, and right they

were. Soviet strikes are likely to reappear. On a large scale, not least since the authorities remunerated the coal miners so nicely for their strikes in July. Even during the first half of 1989, the government claimed a loss of two million man-days because of strikes.

Admittedly, the political settings are very different. The Polish unrest started from below, while the Soviet reform has been launched from above, and Gorbachev keeps up the political momentum. Still, the economic and social crises look confusingly

similar, though they are probably worse in the USSR.

Well, what can we expect? The answer is as simple as it is unpleasant. The crisis is likely to deepen until it becomes politically possible to raise prices so that the market approaches balance, and that is anathema in the current Soviet debate. General Wojciech Jaruzelski did not dare to attempt such a step without martial law in Poland. In the meantime, the Polish national income plunged by 22 per cent over three years. There is hardly any reason to expect that the USSR will do better — The Washington Post.

## Non-alignment and human rights: No nations without people

By Branko Stosic

AS FAR BACK as their first conference in Belgrade in 1961 the non-aligned countries declared their commitment to the establishment of a "new order based on freedom, equality and social justice." Thus far, however, none of their documents formulates their stand on human rights.

At the eight summits, fifteen-odd ministerial conferences, scores of coordination bureau sessions and innumerable other meetings held so far, the Non-Aligned Movement has deliberated all kinds of universal and specific problems of the present-day world, from raw materials and sports, over tourism and international economic cooperation, to war and peace, security and the right of peoples to self-determination. Not once, however, did the agenda of a non-aligned meeting contain the issue of human rights, nor has the movement formulated its stand on this subject.

It cannot be said that the movement's failure to tackle the issue was a deliberate evasion, or even an oversight, since human rights have taken on a broad international dimension and are no longer confined to individual states. Over the past decade, it has frequently been stated in the U.N. General Assembly that human rights are no longer the private affair of states, nor can the issue remain their exclusive prerogative. Numerous resolutions passed by the United Nations underscore the generally accepted stance that no one, neither individuals nor states, international organisations or movements, can ignore the issue of human rights without the risk of discrediting themselves.

It is now time for the Non-Aligned Movement to devote attention to an issue it has long disregarded. The upcoming summit conference in Belgrade is perhaps the best, and certainly the last, opportunity for it to do so.

There are numerous reasons the movement can cite to explain away its longstanding reticence on human rights, despite the fact that the issue was dominant at many international meetings and, particularly, because the situation in certain non-aligned countries makes it incumbent on the movement to show an interest in the state of human rights there.

Two major reasons can partly excuse its failure to do so up to now. First, the movement's principle since its foundation was to achieve consensus, primarily on key problems, both international and its own. It was therefore governed by the unwritten rule of bearing in mind issues which bind the non-aligned countries, while leaving divisive issues in the background. The second reason ensued from the first as the movement endeavoured to adhere strictly to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs

of others. Despite the numerous coups and, frequently, bloodshed and massacres in certain countries, the movement never took a stand on them, except at the second summit conference when the question of Congo's (later Zaire) representation was raised. And later, in similar debates on Kampuchea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Chad, the problem was reduced simply to the "right to a chair." Human rights were never mentioned.

Over all this time, the human rights issue was included implicitly in the movement's general commitment to a "new order based on freedom, equality and social justice." And on many occasions after 1961, the non-aligned countries made similar commitments, most concretely in the resolution on apartheid and racial discrimination adopted at the 3rd summit in Lusaka in September 1970 when they declared their resolve to take active measures for the observance of human and other fundamental rights. Though the resolution pertained directly to South Africa, it implicitly included the movement's strategic stand on human rights, particularly in the light of similar formulations in documents passed at all subsequent summit conferences: Algiers in 1973, Colombo in 1976, Havana in 1979, New Delhi in 1983, and Harare in 1986.

But these generalised conclusions can no longer satisfy even the non-aligned countries themselves, and still less their international reputation. However much it has done for the affirmation of the newly liberated countries and "small" peoples of the world, the Non-Aligned Movement can no longer avoid taking a clear-cut stance on human rights, especially as the issue has never been more topical than today. True, every nation must be recognised. But there can be no nation without people, citizens — and nationhood does not automatically ensure the rights of each and every individual. The non-aligned countries' duty is to work for the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms not only in countries where they are jeopardised by apartheid and racial discrimination, but in every member-state of the movement and around the whole world.

On this occasion, it may be worthwhile to recall the words of Guinea's President Sekou Toure in Havana when the Non-Aligned Movement paid special tribute to President Tito: "A serious man is a man who respects himself and others. In short, a serious man is a man of principle."

The non-aligned countries have won respect, prestige and authority in the world by adhering to this principle where nations and states, regardless of their social systems, size and history, are concerned. It is now time for their commitment to embrace human rights too — Tanjug features.

## Dissidents -turned- deputies liven East Europe's foreign policy

By Colin McIntyre

Reuter

VIENNA — The election of former dissidents to parliament in reformist East Bloc states promises to have the same dramatic effect on the region's foreign policy as on the domestic scene.

Last month a Polish Solidarity delegation including newly-elected parliamentarians visited Czechoslovakia to offer their support for dissidents battling against a hard-line Communist system.

Making full use of their new parliamentary status, the delegation of outlaws-turned-deputies talked openly with dissident and independent groups they had previously met only in secret at remote locations.

"We have been meeting Czechs and Slovaks for 11 years, but until now it was always on the border, clandestinely," delegation member Jan Litynski told the opposition Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza on his return home.

"The fact that the July 1989 meeting took place in Prague is a sign of changing times."

In a comment that was bound to have infuriated the Czechoslovak

government, Litynski described meeting former party leader Alexander Dubcek, still in disgrace 21 years after being toppled by the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion, and called him "a man capable of initiating authentic changes."

Another delegation member Zbigniew Bujak, former Solidarity underground leader who now heads the organisation's Warsaw operation, believed that radical new parliamentarians coming up in Poland, Hungary and the Soviet Union could influence policy in other countries.

"We think that official condemnation by parliamentarians and opposition groups from countries which participated in the 1968 invasion could be an impulse for change in Czechoslovakia," he told Gazeta Wyborcza.

"People responsible for political stagnation in Czechoslovakia may then be forced to go," he added.

Underlining the importance of their newly-won parliamentary status, he said: "I think the mere fact that our visit took place may give the Czechoslovak opposition some guarantees of security."

## The passionate conscience of Le Monde's founder

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Hubert Beuve-Mery is dead. Few outside France, or outside the practice of journalism, are likely to recognise the name of the founder of a great newspaper, Le Monde. Yet his career richly illustrated the pain and contradictions of France's remaking of its own political life and conscience after the Second World War, and the tension of France's relationship with the United States in the early postwar years — renewed, in a measure, in the American relationship with all of Europe, with "1992 Europe," today.

Not many people are presented with a newspaper. Hubert Beuve-Mery was. As a journalist, he had before the war outspokenly criticised the complacency of the French press towards Hitler, and then he had fought in the Resistance. In 1944 the information minister in General de Gaulle's first government invited him to take over the plant of the main prewar daily, Le Temps, which had been suppressed for collaboration.

He was asked to create "a newspaper of reference, credible in France and in the world," a mission defined by the general himself. Mr. Beuve-Mery hesitated, demanded complete independence and was given it. He rapidly made of the new paper more than General de Gaulle had perhaps expected. It became not only a journal of reference but of conscience — a critic of the government and a counter-power to it. The general was subsequently to speak gloomily of its "spirit of constant negativity."

Mr. Beuve-Mery's quarrel with America, which rapidly emerged in the proposition that France adopt a policy of "neutrality" in the emerging Cold War, was moral in origin. To him, the United States seemed a totally materialistic society, and the Atlantic alliance a form of blundering, but ultimately fatal, takeover by the United States of Western Europe.

He was one of a generation of Europeans for whom capitalism meant social injustice and the economic collapse of the 1930s. That was what the United States seemed to represent. Communism at least had an ethical impulse behind it.

France's political elite. It is an essential factor, not in France's government, but in its governance — both close to power and power's perpetual critic, defending Mr. Beuve-Mery's editorial position: "Objectivity? It doesn't exist. What is necessary is to strive for a disinterested subjectivity."

To understand the European current of thought represented by Hubert Beuve-Mery one must step out of the Anglo-American intellectual tradition into the one that formed him, and into the drastic economic circumstances that shaped both the Christian Democratic and Social Democratic parties that were to dominate West European politics after the war — and which dominate the new Europe today.

Jacques Delors, Catholic and Socialist, President of the European Commission, is from this tradition. So is the Protestant

Socialist prime minister of France, Michel Rocard. Spain's Felipe Gonzalez is such a Socialist, while Italy and West Germany are governed by Christian Democrats. All are in the camp that finds American (or Thatcherite) submission to market forces ultimately unacceptable — on moral grounds.

This conflict of values is not often articulated but it is a crucial factor in Europe's relationship with America today, as in the 1940s and 1950s. What lies behind many trans-Atlantic trade conflicts, and even the argument between the United States and the Europeans on a free market in television programmes and films, is an argument about cultural and social values versus the wholly economic priorities of the marketplace. The argument is one Hubert Beuve-Mery would passionately have joined — International Herald Tribune.

## LETTERS

### Patient patients

To the Editor:

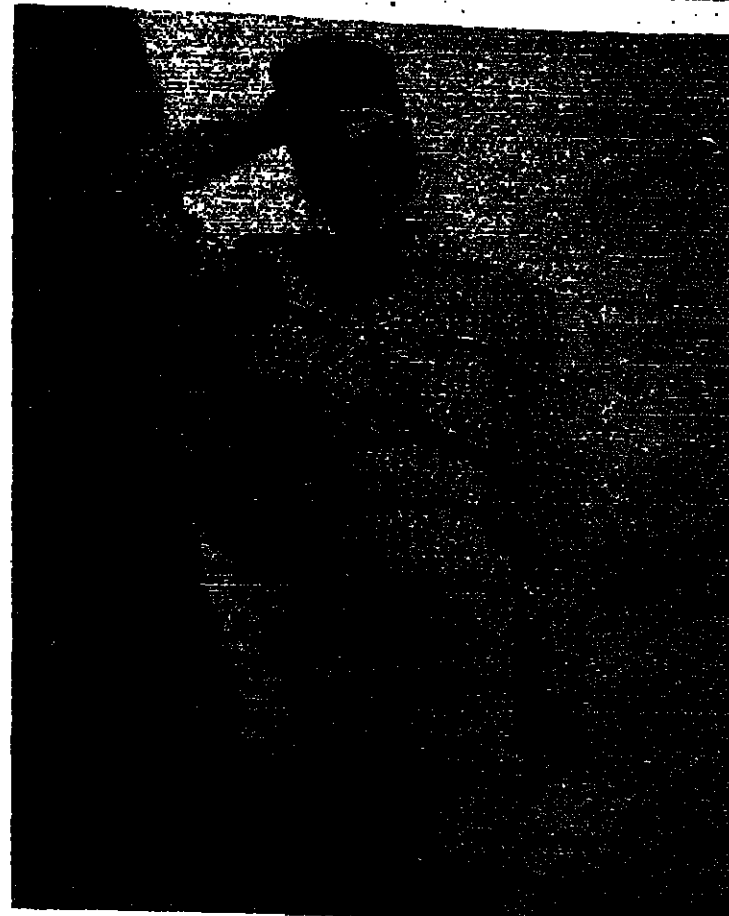
THANK you so much for exposing the problems that face patients when they seek medical attention at governmental hospitals and clinics. I must say that I personally had a taste of what you write about when I took my child daughter to Alweibdeh government clinic Wednesday afternoon. What struck me most was the attitude of indifference that one often encounters when one seeks medical treatment for oneself or one's family. You are immediately made to feel that you are trash that can be kicked about with utter rudeness. Has the Alweibdeh clinic been swamped by many patients — which was not the case — one would have developed a degree of tolerance

and acceptance to the "cannot care less" attitude that one gets from both doctors and nurses. It dawned on me that perhaps the staff at the Alweibdeh clinic had this negative attitude towards their patients because the latter are presumed to be without clout or power to complain. In spite of our meager resources in material terms, the least that our medical staff must do is to show care, kindness, and attentiveness towards their patients no matter what their social, economic or political status is. Will the minister of health take time to teach the people who operate the public clinics some manners on how to deal with their own people.

Ayse Sadi  
Amman

كنا في الأصل





A party dress signed Al Bishri (WNL).

## Saudi designer takes Paris by surprise

By Philippa Neave

PARIS — The audience in the plus Parisian salon sat in expectation, and although many were seasoned fashion observers and commentators, a certain thrill of curiosity hung in the air. The elegant women and fashion professionals were gathered recently in the famous "Pavillon Gabriel" off the Champs Elysees where the likes of Christian Dior and Yves St. Laurent have unveiled successive collections. Only this time, the models treading on the catwalk were showing off creations by a newcomer, Yahya Al Bishri.

Hailing not from Paris, not from Milan, or from Tokyo — the Meccas of the fashion world — but from where Mecca really is, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 29-year-old Al Bishri is determined to change his country's widespread image of a place where women wear nothing but head-to-toe robes.

Though this type of dress is seen often in the streets, private festivities offer another image of Arab women: Wealthy Saudi women are among the world's greatest amateurs of high-fashion garments designed by the most famous designers, and private parties, weddings, engagements or birthday celebrations are as many occasions to dress-up and show oneself.

Until designer Al Bishri took the plunge and going against his family's wishes and his country's traditions opened his workshop in Jeddah four years ago, Saudi women with a taste for Western-style, fashionable luxury clothing had no choice but to buy from foreign designers.

"There are very few art academies in the Arab World; there is so much conflict around that all people think about is war; when they are fighting, there is no time to think about art."

For Al Bishri the first step was to go to the Milan school of fashion in Italy to study. After several years he went back home and started designing. Now that he has begun to receive a fair amount of media attention with magazine coverage, TV and radio interviews, "people's ideas begin to change," he said; the whole adventure looks more like a sound business and may prove inspiring for other young Arabs tempted by unorthodox fields. "If I make a success of it, certainly it will open the way for other young people to do such things."

While trying to innovate, Al Bishri claims he is in tune with what people in his country want: "I draw a great deal from traditional Arab dress," he noted. "In fact I spent six months travelling around the Arab World and I met with people in the villages to try and get close to them, to understand more about traditional clothing. I would speak with them and ask them why they chose this colour, that fabric or this pattern of embroidery."

Looking comfortable in blue jeans and a jeans shirt, Al Bishri added that he is in fact preparing a book on traditional dress in different parts of the Arab World. The book will include pictures of traditional garments next to the young designer's interpretation for modern women. "I come from a very rich culture. I want to show the international people what the Arab people have. One can get a tremendous amount out of this culture; I am sure some European designers would love to know what is there," he added with a mischievous grin.

### Poetical fashions

The young Saudi also draws on his love and knowledge of classical Arab poetry for inspiration. He continues to write poetry himself and reads a great deal. "A poet can describe an event like, while he is walking down the street, he passes a girl and is suddenly struck by love; he will describe her attitude, how she hides her face shyly behind her veil, how the fabrics of her dress flow around her as she walks, how the colours change as layers of fabric are blown gently by the wind... As soon as I read something like this, I immediately get up and go to the drawing board to do a sketch. I put what I see into my own language."

Many of Al Bishri's designs have a distinct oriental flavor, such as the dress he designed for Lady Diana when the British royal couple visited the Saudi Kingdom last year: soft, flowing, multicoloured transparent crepe and wide pans with a top richly embroidered in traditional Arab patterns. Although many of Al Bishri's clothes are extremely sculptured and elaborate, others are quirky, like a wink from the designer: an asymmetrical sleeve here, the hem of a skirt lifted right up to one side like a fan revealing a thigh... As always, most designs are probably best suited to the younger generation, and the svelter body!

Al Bishri has shown collections in major shows in Amman and Cairo, but the majority of his work involves designing exclusive dresses for private clients. "I like to design for the young, they are more open-minded, more open to suggestion. At the same time, when you are creating something for a particular person, you have to think of her personality, her psychology and how she feels," he noted.

### Art vs. war

One of the reasons why the road has been so difficult is that it is rare in his country for anyone to seriously embark on an "arty" career, which is also true in many other Arab countries, he said.

Getting to know a client's wishes is not always easy. Explains the designer: In the Arab World "the girl comes along with her whole family, mother, sisters, cousins and everybody has an opinion and tries to influence her. It would be easy if she were alone, but as it is, I often end up making six or seven sketches."

Al Bishri has designed dresses for women of the Saudi aristocracy, a wedding dress for a princess of the United Arab Emirates and gowns for countless other clients. Many of these are personalised. For example, one wedding dress he designed had the names of the couple embroidered and woven in the fabric of the dress.

After Paris, Al Bishri says he wants to conquer other Western capitals. But he admits that choosing Paris as the venue for his first show in Europe this summer was taking a plunge at the deep end. "Paris means prestige, it is the fashion capital of the world. If you start in Paris and are successful, you've got it made." Looking calm and collected despite the pressure, Al Bishri is well aware of the fierce competition in the Paris arena, especially during the big collection shows when everyone, and especially newcomers, are under the scrutiny of the world's critics and cameras.

### Encouraging reaction

The immediate reaction of the Paris audience seemed encouraging, with the majority of the very diverse styles drawing applause. From an opening with colourful, very oriental-looking pantaloons outfits, the show proceeded with a succession of highly elaborate suits and evening dresses. One white suit was particularly fetching with its apparent sobriety, which at closer look revealed an intricate fabric of woven pearls and sequins. True works of art, evening gowns were decorated with breathtaking hand-sewn flowers, leaves and fruit as well as arabesque designs made of pearls, sequins and semi-precious stones.

A less ornate but obviously popular series could be dubbed "Palestinian Theme" because it uses the black and white cloth traditionally worn as the keffiyeh headress by Palestinians. The fabric, considerably enriched with sequins and velvet ribbons, was turned into outfits of surprising originality: a mini-skirt from the front turned into a long gown at the back, ballooning pants were surrounded by multicoloured, flowing crepe. The show also included a series of sexy, body-hugging leather outfits as well as romantic evening gowns. There was something for everyone. Everyone who goes to extremely fancy parties that is. And everyone who has a replete wallet: though prices were not widely broadcast, some of the dazzling gowns were said to fetch some \$45,000.

Sadly lacking in Al Bishri's promising collection was casual clothing one can wear during the day. Maybe Al Bishri's foray in the West will inspire him to design for working women or women who just want to be elegant during the day. He says he has just signed a contract to open a shop in New York where he will present part of his collection this year, and he is also planning to set up a boutique in Paris. Meanwhile, he is designing the costumes for "a major feature film" — he could not give out the title — soon to be shot in Italy.

Fame and money are OK, but Al Bishri says he expects more from working on the international scene. "I am trying to get wise," he concludes — World News Link.



## Will U.S. Congress fund Mars project?

ALTHOUGH U.S. President George Bush has set new goals for the United States Space programme — including a manned flight to Mars — a crucial question is: Will a reluctant Congress vote the necessary funds?

The President, speaking on the 20th anniversary of the first Moon landing, announced that he had asked the National Space Council to calculate the cost and time needed to establish a lunar base as well as to send astronauts to the "red planet."

He also said that he was determined to press ahead with the planned space station, due to go into orbit by the mid 1990s. This \$19 billion project is a joint venture with the European Space Agency, Japan and Canada.

Given the necessary funding, experts believe that an expedition to Mars could take place by the year 2020. The journey would take more than a year, and a three or five-man mission is envisaged.

Well before then, however, as

Mr. Bush explained, the space station would have to be in operation and a permanent lunar colony established. What is visualised is a domed structure to house about 12 astronauts. They were, the president added, part of the necessary long-term commitment if Americans wanted to retain their leadership in space exploration.

But to do this the U.S. taxpayers will have to dig fairly deeply into their pockets. An official of NASA, the space agency, is quoted as saying that the lunar base and Mars mission projects would require a doubling of the organisation's \$11 billion budget.

This currently represents one per cent of the Federal Budget, compared to around four per cent during the years culminating in the Moon triumph.

Whoever is the first to walk on Martian soil, he — or she — will occupy a niche in history alongside Neil Armstrong, the U.S. astronaut who, on July 20, 1969,

became the first human being to step on another world. Thanks to a global television satellite link, the event on the Moon was watched live back on Earth by an audience of at least 500 million. Mars has long stirred human imagination and curiosity — the ancient Romans named it after their god of war. Its distance from Earth varies — as each planet orbits the Sun — from 55.5 million to 378 million kilometres.

In good conditions Mars can be studied in considerable detail with a telescope. Consequently, much was known about its surface before it came under closer scrutiny, over the past three decades, by U.S. and Soviet space probes.

Though smaller than the Earth, it has similarities, including the inclination of its axis which determines seasonal variations.

About 60 per cent of the Martian surface is reddish, though there are areas which show seasonal changes in colour. The planet's white polar caps are another con-

spicuous feature, shrinking in summer and expanding in winter. Mars is subject to vast, yellow dust storms which obliterate the surface for weeks. The northern hemisphere is low and relatively smooth, in contrast to the southern half which is high and pockmarked with craters. Most of these are due to the impact of meteorites, but some are volcanic.

The largest of these dwarfs any of its terrestrial counterparts, being 600 km. wide and 25 km. high. Other features of the landscape are giant rift valleys. And at night temperatures can fall as low as minus 120 degrees centigrade.

Does any form of life exist on the planet? In 1975, the U.S. sent two unmanned spacecraft there to look for any craters. But despite extensive investigations, the question remains unanswered. Although there is now no surface water, the signs are that there was in the distant past — Lion features.

## German designers lead in European fashion

By Carol J. Williams  
The Associated Press

DUESSELDORF, West Germany — Few of the rich and famous come to this city of heavy industry for the seasonal showings of its hot new designers.

But jet-setting royals and a discriminating clientele of commoners have applauded with their pocketbooks, if not their presence, turning Dusseldorf into a new European fashion centre.

West Germany, better known for its car plants and breweries, is also the leading producer of fashion and textiles in Europe, and one of the biggest exporters of women's wear worldwide.

For years, style-conscious buyers have associated continental chic with the established couturiers of Paris and Milan, where famed fashion houses like Chanel and Armani turn out twice-yearly collections.

Now, with an expanding world market for well-paid professional women and globe-trotting tourists, West German designers say they are upstaging their foreign rivals with the right mix of panache and pragmatism.

"German fashion has the same reputation as German food — it's actually good, but everyone thinks of it as bland and fattening," Herwig Zahm, head of

Mondi Apparel near Munich, joked between sales appointments at a recent fashion trade fair.

That meat-and-potatoes image is changing fast, as evidenced by the sharp rise in interest among foreign buyers for German-made clothing, shoes, cosmetics and jewellery aimed at the upper- to middle-income brackets.

"Our exports are very high and increasing each year, which shows that our reputation is growing," said Claudia Timm, spokeswoman for Dusseldorf's sprawling Igedo Fashion Market, which has given focus to design centres scattered throughout West Germany.

Nearly a third of the 23 billion marks (\$13 billion) in West German apparel manufactured last year was exported, and foreign sales account for an even larger share of output this year, according to the Cologne-based Women's Outwear Association.

Salamanca shoes of Kornwestheim is Europe's largest producer of footwear. Klaus Steilmann's motto of "fashion for millions, not millionaires" has made him the continental king of contemporary sportswear with nearly 1.2 billion marks (\$640 million) in annual sales.

The West Germans contend their attention to product quality and marketing savvy have won

them number one ranking in performance in Europe, if not in reputation. They also appear to be concentrating on leisure, casual and office wear, while others seem to stress evening clothes.

"The French have all the image, but they don't have a product anymore," said Wolfgang Ley, president of Munich-based Escada, which expects to sell 750 million marks (\$400 million) in exclusive apparel this year.

"The designers create a couture line, but the managers leave it to any manufacturer to produce a ready-to-wear line," he asserted. "Some of what is being produced under very famous labels is absolute junk."

Ley's Company, for which his Swedish-born wife Margaretha is the chief designer, posted a phenomenal 40 per cent sales increase in 1988 and has seen an even brisker pace so far this year.

"We design our own fabrics and our own colour stories," Ley pitched with a salesman's aplomb. "We make our own market and give it a direction. We don't wait around to see how the wind is blowing."

Names like Escada, Mondi and Tuzzi conjure up an image that is more Mediterranean than German, which is part of the strategy of those designing for an international audience.

Mondi sells 400 million marks (\$213 million) in clothing each year and counts among its customers the Princess of Wales. She caused a run on the company's designer socks in 1985 after sporting them at a polo match, and still places regular orders for Mondi each season, including a burgundy, black and vanilla wardrobe for this fall.

Jil Sander of Hamburg has captured another impressive corner of the upscale market with classic styles, subtle colours and natural fabrics that pack well and wear long enough to justify their price tags. Sweaters costs upwards of \$300, dresses begin around \$500 and suits and coats run well over \$1,000.

"You can start with a few pieces and build up a basic wardrobe over the years," said Sander, a slender 45-year-old who still models for some of her advertisements. "That's much less costly than getting a lot of clothes and having no style."

Her clothes are produced in West Germany and shown exclusively at the fall and spring fashion fairs in Milan.

A mainly German group of designers has presented a collection for next spring called "campus-contemporary-casual." It focuses on tropical themes with yellows, greens, reds and browns in light natural fabrics.

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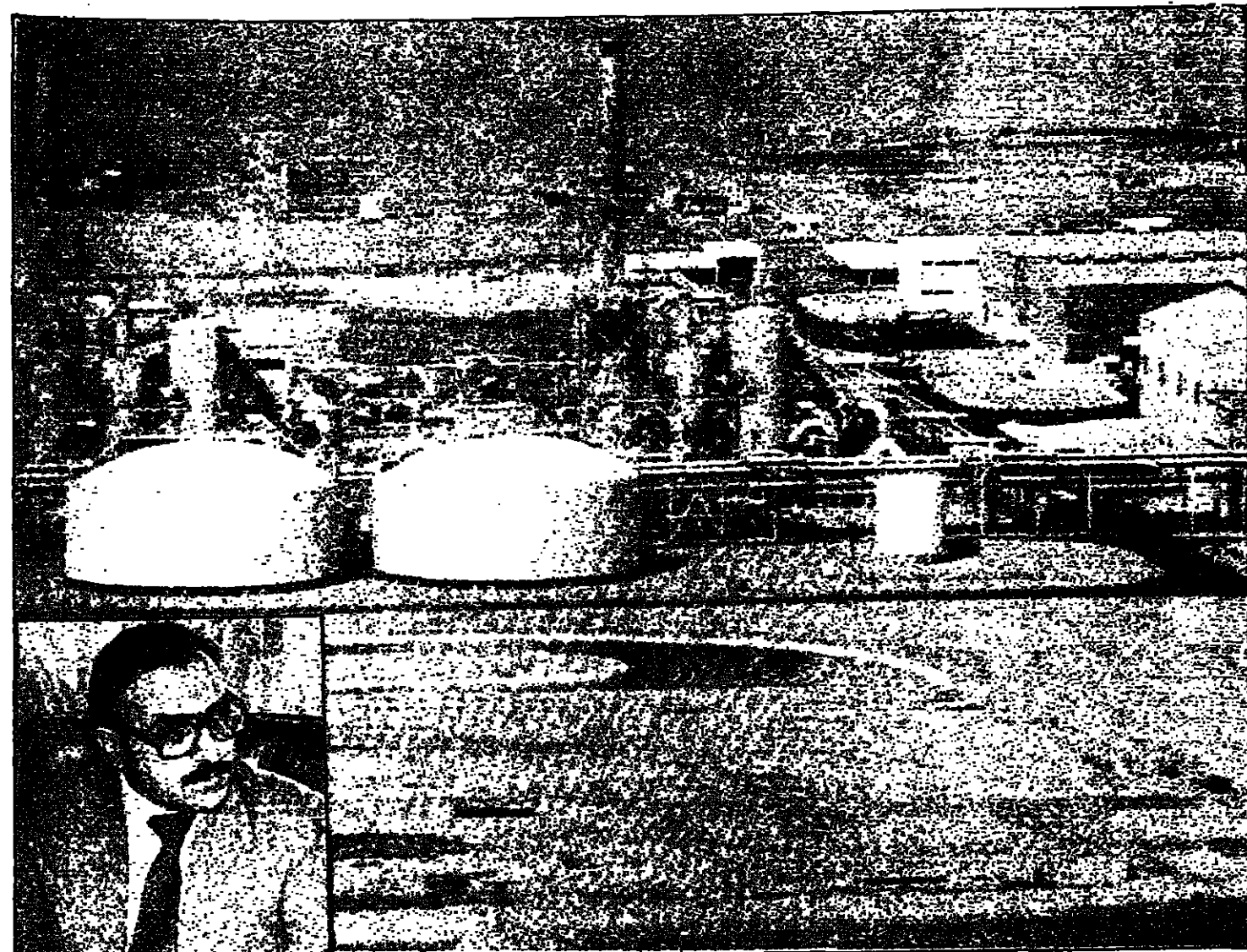
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Jordan's fertilizer plant in Aqaba and JPMC director Wasef Azar (File photos)

## Lowering price for Jordanian farmers

# JPMC strengthens fertiliser plant

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has decided to reduce the price of its fertilisers in a bid to help local farmers boost their agricultural output at the lowest possible cost.

The announcement was made by JPMC Director Wasef Azar who said that a tonne of aluminium phosphating fertiliser will be sold at JD 100, down from JD 105. He said the international price for a tonne of this type of fertiliser is JD 150.

He added that the company is selling different types of liquid and solid fertilisers for use in large-scale agricultural produc-

tion or for domestic plants.

According to Azar, the company's overall production of phosphate rose from 2.9 million tonnes in 1979 to 7.1 million in 1989 noting that the company produced nearly 58.3 million tonnes of phosphate over the past decade.

JPMC's acquisition of the fertiliser company based in Aqaba in the middle of 1986 has enabled

JPMC to make good financial returns and move ahead with plans for expansion, Azar said. He explained that the company's

exports of fertilisers grew from 118,000 tonnes in 1982 to 610,000 tonnes in 1989 as a result of this expansion.

Thanks to a sound and flexible marketing strategy, Azar said, the company was able to increase its phosphate exports to international markets.

JPMC's phosphate exports in 1979 registered 2.7 million tonnes, rising to 6.4 million tonnes in 1989.

Azar estimated Jordan's exports of phosphate in 1989 to bring in a revenue of \$425 million, up from \$345 million in 1988.

Phosphate produced at the Ruseifa, Wadi Al Abiad, Al Hasa and Shidiyah mines in Jordan are being transported to Aqaba for export through 600 trucks and the railway linking the mines with the port city, Azar noted.

At present, Azar said, the company is conducting studies and working out designs to establish vast fertiliser industries in cooperation with the Arab Potash Company.

# U.S. oil imports from Mideast surge

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Imports accounted for more than half of U.S. petroleum consumption last month, surging past the 50 per cent mark for the first time in 12 years, the American Petroleum Institute (API) reports.

"A lot of this oil is coming from the Middle East, the unstable Middle East," said institute spokesman R.G. Ensz. "It means dollars are leaving the country to pay for this oil."

The API's monthly statistical report found oil imports accounted for 50.4 per cent of domestic consumption in July, up from 43.5 per cent in July 1988.

The report said domestic deliveries of petroleum products averaged just under 17 million barrels a day, while total imports — crude oil plus petroleum products — averaged over 8.5 million barrels.

July's total was only the fourth time ever that a monthly import figure had exceeded 50 per cent,

the institute said. In March 1977 and July 1977, imports surged to 51.8 per cent of total deliveries, while in May 1977 imports reached 50.5 per cent.

Ensz said the new figures indicate "We're growing more dependent on foreign oil while Congress is putting moratoria on offshore drilling."

Legislation is moving through Congress, he said, that would stop drilling for oil in Alaska and off the coasts of California, western Florida, the mid-Atlantic and New England.

The move toward the bans comes after the Exxon Valdez tanker spilled nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil into the pristine waters of Alaska's Prince William Sound.

"What they're overlooking is more foreign oil means more tankers" in U.S. waters, Ensz said.

The growing traffic of oil tankers, in turn, raises the potential

for another oil tanker spill, he said.

The API said the highest percentage of oil imports for a full year 47.7 per cent in 1977. For the first seven months of this year, imports averaged 46.2 per cent of deliveries, compared with 41.5 per cent for all of 1988.

Meanwhile, the United States' trade deficit fell in June to its lowest level in 4½ years, the Commerce Department reported Thursday, although analysts said it happened largely because the economy was weakening.

"The U.S. economy was slowing and sucking in less imports," commented Howard Lewis, an economist with the National Association of Manufacturers.

This caused the June deficit to decline a sharp 19 per cent to \$8.2 billion — the lowest since \$6.8 billion in December 1984 — from a revised \$10.1 billion in May. The May figure was originally reported as \$10.2 billion.

Exports rose 1.5 per cent to a record \$30.9 billion in May, fell 3.6 per cent to \$39.1 billion.

June was the fourth consecutive month that exports exceeded \$30 billion, a development Lewis called highly encouraging but not enough to reduce the nation's staggering deficit sharply over the long term.

"When you cut through all these numbers, we're still heading for a deficit (for all of 1989) in the neighbourhood of \$110 billion," he said.

That would be about an \$8 billion improvement over last year's total deficit of \$118 billion, but far less than the \$34 billion reduction achieved last year from the record \$152 billion deficit of 1987.

The Bush administration has been encouraging the U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve Board (Fed), to let interest rates fall to stimulate economic activity, but White House reaction to

Thursday's report was low key.

Commerce Secretary Robert Moench said June trade figures were encouraging and added that higher exports show "increasing expertise by American exporters in sales to foreign markets."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the drop in the June deficit was "certainly good news for the country."

White House Budget Director Richard Darman said in a television interview last weekend that the Fed was too restrictive in its credit policies and signalled the White House was ready to blame the independent agency if the economy turned sour.

Cynthia Latta, senior financial economist with Dri-McGraw-Hill noted the average of the May and June trade deficits was \$9.1 billion and said that was probably a truer picture of performance.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Arabs favour investing in Egypt

ABU DHABI (AP) — Egypt attracted most private Arab investment last year, according to a report issued by the Arab Investment Guarantee Organisation. The report estimated the total value of inter-Arab investments at \$232.43 million and said Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) followed as leading markets for such investment. The report said Arab investments in Egypt shot up by 63.7 per cent in 1988 over 1987, but did not say how much money that represented. The UAE, where the organisation is based, was the only country for which a precise investment figure was given: \$15.59 million. The report indicated that Arab investors favoured the banking sector which attracted 39.6 per cent of the total, followed by industry with 26.7 per cent, trade, construction and services with 13.6 per cent, tourism and real estate 12.3 per cent and agriculture, animal wealth and fishing with 7.9 per cent. It also said that the leading source of investment was the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council which accounted for 43 per cent of the total, followed by Iraq and the Levant countries which would include Syria and Lebanon.

### Israeli jobless rate climbs to 9.5%

TEL AVIV (AP) — The central bureau of statistics has said that preliminary estimates for the April-June quarter show that unemployment has risen to a two-decade high of 9.5 per cent. That translates to about 150,000 people out of work, it said. The latest unemployment rate compared with 8.3 per cent in the January-March quarter and six per cent a year earlier. It was the highest since 9.9 per cent in the third quarter of 1967 in the depths of the 1965-67 recession. Unemployment in that recession peaked at 12.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1967. Labour ministry officials have predicted that the unemployment rate in Israel could exceed 10 per cent by year's end, even with special job programmes approved by the government.

### Iran's non-oil exports increase

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The official Islamic Republic News Agency has reported that Iran's non-oil exports totalled \$306

million in the four-month period between March and July, a 23 per cent increase over the same period in 1988. The customs office, which released the figures in Tehran, said hand-woven carpets, pistachio nuts, pistachio kernels, and different types of hides topped the list of exports. The agency said other non-oil exports included dried and fresh fruits, vegetables, copper bars, cathode and anode copper, and detergents.

### Venezuela insists on 50% debt reduction

CARACAS (AP) — Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has said that Venezuela owes a 50 per cent reduction of the estimated 20.3 billion it owes to commercial banks, though banks have rejected his position. "We cannot say this or nothing," Perez said, "but the conclusion is that we must seek more or less this 50 per cent reduction because it is what we need." Venezuela had insisted in preliminary conversations with its commercial creditors that it needs to cut its annual debt burden in half in order to meet its commitments and generate needed economic growth. But banking representatives late last month rejected that position, reportedly claiming Venezuela was in better shape to meet its debt payments than Mexico, the first country to reach an agreement with banks on debt reductions under a U.S. initiative. In January, Venezuela stopped paying capital on its \$33 billion debt, the fourth largest in the developing world, and stopped interest payments in February.

### Top Bahraini bank boosts profit

NICOSIA (R) — The National Bank of Bahrain, the Gulf state's biggest domestic bank, said it made a net profit of 4.8 million dinars (\$12.7 million) for the first half of 1989, a 14 per cent rise on the same period in 1988. In an unaudited statement, the bank attributed the increase to a lower level of provisions. Provisions for the first half of 1989 totalled 2.5 million dinars (\$6.63 million) compared to 3.4 million (\$9 million) during the same period of 1988. Loans and advances stood at 156 million dinars (\$413.7 million), a 44 per cent reduction on those for the first half of 1988, the statement said, adding that the bank would continue to concentrate on short term money market activities and adopt conservative lending policies. Total assets stood at 671 million dinars (1.78 billion) in 1989 against 674 million (\$1.79 billion).

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, August 17, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	356.0	402.0	90.8 91.7
Pound Sterling	241.1	250.5	418.7 422.9
Deutsche mark	306.9	318.0	272.2 274.9
Swiss franc	356.5	360.1	90.5 91.4
			42.7 43.1
			146.8 148.3

### Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Aug. 13-16	July 17-19
Daily average	JD 954,770	JD 2,382,827
Total volume	JD 3,819,082	JD 7,148,483
Total shares	2,210,831	2,937,538
No. of contracts	2,501	3,403

#### Sectoral trading:

	JD 2,838,936	JD 5,006,991
Industrial	(74.3%)	(70.0%)
Financial	JD 608,649	JD 1,812,397
	(15.9%)	(25.4%)
Service	(7.5%)	(3.6%)
Insurance	(2.3%)	(1.0%)
Share price index	127.5	127.5
No. of companies	61	56
Price movement (rise)	34	28
(decline)	12	16
(stable)	15	12

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.5653/63	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1790/1800	Deutsche mark
	1.9590/9600	Dutch guilders
	2.2085/95	Swiss francs
	1.6885/95	Belgian francs
	40.9641/01	French francs
	6.6225/75	Italian lire
	1407/1408	Japanese yen
	143.10/20	Sri Lankan rupees
	6.6375/6425	Swedish crowns
	7.1525/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.6200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	366.50/367.00	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Stocks closed lower in mixed trade as profit-takers took advantage of recent gains. The All Ordinaries index fell 9.8 to 1,716.9.

TOKYO — The market took a breather after lurching to record highs this week, closing mixed in very thin trade. The Nikkei fell 26.97 to close at 35,063.14.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index fell more than 100 points during the morning on rumours — later denied from Peking — of a power struggle in the Chinese leadership. The index finished 43.82 lower at 2,573.16.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index climbed 5.93 to a post-crash high of 3,381.49 but fellers outnumbered gainers by 166 to 71.

BOMBAY — Rumours of an early national election and the run-up to a series of new issues sent share prices broadly down. Tata Steel fell 31.25 rupees to 1,237.50.

FRANKFURT — German share prices drifted above their lower opening levels, ending the day virtually unchanged from Thursday in thin, directionless trade. The DAX index ended at 1,575.77. Just 0.39 points below Thursday's close.

ZURICH — Swiss shares bounced back from early lows in lively trade, closing mixed in a narrow range. The all-share Swiss performance index hardly changed at 1,204.1 (1,204.3).

PARIS — French share prices slipped in quiet trade as hopes of lower interest rates at home and in the United States took a knock from French inflation data and news of a narrower U.S. trade deficit in June, dealers said.

LONDON — Prices remained firm after Wall Street recovered from earlier weakness. At 1501 GMT the FTSE index was up 12.5 points at 2,372.3.

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks edged lower undermined by a weak bond market and a U.S. consumer price report viewed unfavourably by investors, analysts said. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.00 to 2,678.

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## Workers return to work in Estonia but after meeting Russians suspend strike

MOSCOW (R) — Striking Russian workers in Soviet Estonia went back to work Friday after agreeing at a late-night meeting to suspend a 10-day old protest against a new election law, a strike committee spokesman said.

"We decided to suspend the strike," the spokesman told Reuters from the Estonian capital, Tallinn. "Enterprises all over the republic went back to work this morning."

However, the strike committee spokesman said the stoppage could resume if Estonian authorities failed to respect an order from Moscow to come up with new proposals to amend the election law by Oct. 1.

"Republican authorities did not actually give us guarantees that our demands would be met, but we nevertheless decided to believe them," he said.

"But the strike will resume on a far larger scale if they do not come to any compromise with us by Oct. 1," he added.

The law, passed by the Estonian parliament Aug. 8, deprives recent Russian immigrants to the republic of the chance of voting in local elections by setting a minimum residence requirement of two years.

However, Estonian officials

have said they have no intention of changing the law, which they see as an important part of the drive by their once-independent republic to win greater control over its own affairs.

The Kremlin says the election law is in conflict with the Soviet constitution, which promises equal voting rights to all Soviet citizens.

The National Praesidium Wednesday declared the Estonian law unconstitutional in a decision approved by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Russians and other non-ethnic Estonians, who make up about 40 per cent of the republic's population of 1.6 million, complained that about 80,000 of them would be disenfranchised.

Strike committee member Maral Chekatovsky said that the strike had already accomplished many of its goals. "Moscow and the whole Soviet Union and the world started to pay attention to us," he said.

The strike "was starting to

work against us," he said, referring to the growing economic difficulties the strike caused in the tiny Baltic republic.

The government newspaper Izvestia Thursday quoted Railway Minister Nikolai Konarev as saying that strike had idled 3,000 railcars in Estonia.

He said more than 700 of the cars had been left on railway lines, blocking dozens of trains from proceeding.

In Tallinn alone, where all stations that load and unload freight have been paralysed by the walk-out, 34 trains carrying perishable foodstuffs and other goods are waiting to be discharged, Konarev said.

The decision to resume work was taken at a meeting late Thursday following a meeting between strikers' representatives and a parliamentary delegation from Moscow.

Strikers also had talks with the republic's leadership, the strike committee said.

Members of the Estonian Popular Front, a mass movement pressing for greater autonomy for Estonia, have alleged the strikes were encouraged by Moscow in an attempt to put a brake on the Estonian drive for autonomy.

In another area threatened by nationalist labor unrest, Russian

workers in Moldavia staged a two-hour warning strike Wednesday. They were protesting a proposed law that would make Moldavia the republic's official language.

### Nationality proposals

The Soviet leadership, alarmed by the nationalist turmoil bubbling across the country, has proposed "radical transformations in the Soviet federation" to address the needs of its different nationalities.

A Communist Party policy document issued Thursday said solving demands for greater autonomy, ending ethnic strife and "ensuring free development of spiritual life of all peoples of the Soviet Union" were key factors of President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

"The main condition of stability and successful development of the Soviet federation is the optimum correlation between the rights of union republics and of the Soviet Union as a whole," it said.

The document, quoted by the official TASS news agency, was short on detail. But it said the rights of autonomous republics and regions — minority group subdivisions of the 15 ethnic republics — should be substantially widened.



Michael Rocard

## Rocard visits south Pacific

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — French Prime Minister Michel Rocard opened a South Pacific visit Friday, making clear France intends to retain its influence in the region, help island economies grow and continue nuclear testing.

Rocard acknowledged that relations between France and Australia have been strained over the nuclear tests on Mururoa Atoll and other issues including France's handling of New Caledonia's political unrest.

But he said the two countries now are fully reconciled. "France for its part regards Australia as a key partner with which it is important to maintain first-rate relations," he told reporters shortly after his arrival. "We want a permanent dialogue with Canberra."

After opening talks with Prime Minister Bob Hawke, the leaders issued a joint statement expressing concerns about drift net fishing, global warming, the destruction of the rain forests and protecting Antarctica.

In his subsequent news conference, Rocard said the French government has reduced its nuclear tests from eight to six each year because of promising developments in superpower disarmament talks.

"France understands the feelings that these tests arise in countries of the region," he said. But he added that world peace for the past 40 years was "not unconnected" to the nuclear deterrence.

"The only chance of peace is that people be really scared of having a war," he said. He called the French-sanctioned bombing of the environmentalists ship Rainbow Warrior in New Zealand in 1985 a "tragic mistake" and used the news conference to apologise.

"It was an immense, tremendous mistake. And the French republic has publicly apologised to New Zealand. And as a French citizen I would again like to reiterate (it) to the world community," Rocard said.

Rocard was met outside the National Press Club by anti-nuclear protesters who threw yellow cakes at him intended as symbols of radioactive material. The cakes fell off the mark. Four of approximately 20 demonstrators were detained. Rocard will travel to New Caledonia, Fiji, Wallis and Futuna and Tahiti during his tour. He said a major purpose of his visit was to encourage the development of the island.

## Carter mediation produces agreement for Ethiopia talks

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Ethiopia's government and rebels in Eritrea province have taken their first serious steps to end a 28-year-old civil war by accepting former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's offer to host peace talks.

Carter's office in Atlanta, Georgia, said Thursday he would mediate in talks between the pro-Soviet government of President Mengistu Jaile Mariam and the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) beginning Sept. 7.

The war for Eritrea's independence has killed hundreds of thousands and has contributed to recurrent famine in the arid and mountainous former Italian colony. The conflict is costing the government more than half its budget.

"Carter has already been doing a lot of shuttle diplomacy," said one East African diplomat.

"But not that both sides are actually going to sit down and meet — that's a bit of a surprise so soon and very positive," he told Reuters.

Carter said there would be no preconditions on the talks which he described as a first round expected to "lay the groundwork for more sustained negotiations."

In the past, the Ethiopian government has said it would never agree to independence for Eritrea while the EPLF has said independence was not negotiable.

Diplomats said Carter, who has met Mengistu and EPLF leaders three times this year already, may have been exploring some middle ground.

"Carter has a track record, he is one of the few people around who has got experience in mediating this kind of negotiation," said one diplomat by telephone from Addis Ababa.

His mediation helped bring about the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt in 1979 and since leaving the White House in 1981, Carter has attempted to set up an international mediation centre for civil wars and conflicts.

Civil wars, like the Eritrean conflict, fall outside the peace-

keeping activities of the United Nations.

Dayle Powell, director of the Conflict Resolution Programme at the Carter Presidential Centre in Atlanta, said the first round of talks in September was likely to focus on logistic rather than substantive issues.

Diplomats, meanwhile, say that although the rebels have been winning the war for control of the strategic province, the Ethiopian government may be hoping that the prospects of peace talks may persuade some of the EPLF's backers in the Middle East to cut back their support.

They said the Soviet Union has already been putting much pressure on Mengistu to come to the bargaining table, while the continuing economic crisis and last May's attempted coup have made the Ethiopian leader's position less secure.

Ethiopia may also be hoping that the peace process will help improve its cool relations with the United States.

## AZT delays AIDS in asymptomatic cases

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. government study released Thursday shows that an anti-AIDS drug delays the onset of the killer disease in individuals infected by the AIDS virus but who have not started showing symptoms.

"Today we are witnessing an additional significant milestone in the battle to change AIDS from a fatal disease to a treatable one," Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan told a news conference.

The results of trials of the drug AZT in infected by asymptomatic individuals had been eagerly awaited by researchers and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) patients.

Sullivan made the announcement on the same day a report by

the U.S. Centres for Disease Control stated that the number of AIDS cases in the country passed 100,000 this month and the disease had begun attacking the country's rural heartland.

More cases were being reported each year and more cases involved intravenous drug users, the report said. It said that an increasingly larger proportion of the victims were likely to be women and to come from small towns in rural areas.

The report said 59,000 people had died because of AIDS.

U.S. officials estimated that in America alone, more than 400,000 people could benefit from the new findings of the tests on AZT, which is made by London-based Wellcome PLC.

Just two weeks ago U.S. and

Wellcome officials disclosed that in another study AZT had been found to slow the progress of AIDS in patients with early symptoms of the disease, which breaks down the body's ability to fight infection.

However, Thursday's announcement was unexpected.

The study which began about two years ago with 3,200 patients, was not supposed to end for some time. A portion of the study was discontinued Wednesday on the advice of safety monitors.

The monitors concluded it would be unethical to continue using placebos, or sugar pills, in that part of the study looking at patients with depressed counts of a key disease-fighting white blood cell known as a T4 cell.



A masked protester prepares to throw a firebomb at a bus in Belfast in violence marking the anniversary of the arrival of British troops in Northern Ireland.

## IRA vows to pursue warpath against Britain

DUBLIN (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) vowed to stretch Britain to breaking point and keep on attacking British army bases across Europe.

In a message Thursday to mark the 20th anniversary of British troops being sent into Northern Ireland, a top IRA guerrilla warned: "There will be no ceasefire or truces until Britain declares its intent to withdraw and leave our people in peace."

"Our tactics remain fluid and we will continue to stretch and re-stretch British resources to

breaking point," the guerrilla spokesman told Republican News, a leading mouthpiece for the hardline nationalist cause, in an interview.

He said Britain's portrayal of the conflict as "indigenous" to Northern Ireland had forced the IRA to change tactics, "for example, going abroad to inflict higher casualties on British military forces."

"We will, through inflicting continued and unsustainable losses, break the will of the British government to stay in our coun-

try," he said. The IRA promised a "long, bloody summer" to mark the anniversary of the August 14, 1969 deployment of British troops in Northern Ireland.

But the anniversary passed off Monday without a single death in the sectarian and political conflict that has now taken almost 2,800 lives in Northern Ireland.

The IRA ended a year-long lull in continental Europe in June when a British barracks in Osnabrueck, West Germany was bombed.

## Korean border crossing endangers armistice — U.N.

SEOUL (AP) — The United Nations Command (UNC) said Friday a border crossing by two South Korean dissidents returning from North Korea put in question the North's willingness to adhere to an armistice agreement that has kept peace on the Korean Peninsula since 1953.

"Most critically, the North Korean's unilateral decision to allow the transit puts in question their adherence to the armistice itself," the UNC said in a statement.

A UNC spokesman said the statement was intended to clarify the command's position on the case. He did not say what specific action the command would take against North Korea in connection with the incident.

The U.N.-led UNC charged that North Korea endangered the implementation of the 1953 Korean armistice agreement by allowing two South Korean dissidents to cross the border without proper authorisation.

A dissident woman student, Im Su-Kyong, accompanied by a Ro-

man Catholic priest, Moon Gyu-Hyun, returned home through Pannumjon Tuesday after visiting North Korea without authorisation, from the South Korean government.

There were immediately detained by South Korean authorities.

South Korea accused North Korea of committing an "intentional provocation" by letting the two dissidents cross the border.

The UNC also expressed concern about a series of North Korean political demonstrations that preceded the crossing. UNC officials charged that North Korea brought hundreds of people to the sensitive neutral zone for anti-U.S., anti-South Korea demonstrations in July and August.

"The North deliberately altered the rules, thus introducing uncertainty and raising tensions in a sensitive area where the potential for confrontation and violence is always high," it said.

The border crossing raised the

question of whether the armistice agreement which ended the Korean war in 1953 is effectively in force.

North Korea denied that the dissidents' transit was illegal, contending that the armistice agreement applies only to foreigners or to people wishing to enter the territory under control of the opposite side. As South Koreans, "it is natural for Ms. Im and Moon to go back to their residence area," it said.

The UNC rejected the North Korean position, saying that no person, military or civilian, can be permitted to cross the border unless specifically authorised to do so by the military armistice commission that supervises the implementation of the armistice agreement.

The UNC, a signatory to the agreement, said many Koreans, from both the North and South, have been authorised in the past to cross the border after agreements were reached between the two sides.

## COLUMN

### Navy rescues Tinkerbell

LONDON (R) — Farmer Lyndon Wilson called in a British navy helicopter when his cow Tinkerbell fell 60 metres down a cliff to a Seawashed Ledge. "It was one of our most difficult cow-lifts," said Lieutenant Doug Sealey, one of the crew who flew mother-to-be Tinkerbell to safety. Tinkerbell took the plunge at Rame Head, in the southeastern English county of Cornwall, on Monday. Fishermen spotted her at the cliff bottom and alerted Wilson who climbed down and spent the night with her on the ledge. Coastguards could not get a boat near enough to rescue Tinkerbell Tuesday and, as the tide came in, they called the navy. A veterinary surgeon helped Wilson lead Tinkerbell into the water so the helicopter had room to manoeuvre, then tranquillised the animal. A crew member was winched down, put a net round Tinkerbell and attached a cable. The helicopter lifted her back to the cliff-top, none the worse for her brief flight.

### Sniffing cocaine for 55 years

LONDON (R) — An 80-year-old British woman has sniffed cocaine under doctor's orders almost every day for the last 55 years and suffered no ill effects, according to a medical publication. The British Journal of Addiction said in its latest edition that the woman, first given cocaine for a nose irritation that troubled her when horse riding, had sniffed her way through about 5.5 kg of the drug — worth about £300,000 at current street prices. For the last 20 years, her habit has been paid for by the national health service. Psychiatrists Robert Brown and Robert Middledell, based in the north-western English city of Liverpool, said cocaine solution had been supplied for the last 20 years under regulations for treatment of addicts. The woman, who was not named, had drawn large quantities of the drug from doctors in France during holidays.

### Duck impaled on White House fence

WASHINGTON (AP) — A homeless man who impaled the body of a duck on the White House fence was charged with cruelty to animals and arraigned on the charges Tuesday, a Secret Service spokesman said. A spokesman said Christopher E. Jackson, 33, may be considered for psychiatric evaluation. The duck was the mate of a drake that spent time flying between Lafayette Park opposite the White House and a nearby fountain. Eyewitnesses told the Washington Times that Jackson identified himself as "Chris from New Hampshire," picked up the duck Monday and crossed Pennsylvania Avenue to the northern gate of the White House. He then pulled a knife from his pocket and slit the fowl's throat before impaling its remains on the White House fence, according to the Secret Service. Four Secret Service agents then handcuffed Jackson and took him into custody after disarming him.

### Tvs, waterbeds in prison cell

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — The government has ordered an investigation into newspaper allegations that some well-connected prison inmates have been enjoying television sets, waterbeds and other luxuries in their cells. Deputy Home Affairs Minister Megat Ayub told reporters the government also was investigating allegations that some prisoners have been attending to family business while serving prison sentences.

## Global weather

(major world cities)		MM	MAX	
		°C	°F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	16	61	73	Clear
ATHENS	25	77	84	Clear
BAHRAIN	30	86	104	Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	93	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	15	59	74	Cloudy
CAIRO	25	77	93	Clear
CHONGQING	12	54	78	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	14	57	78	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	13	55	77	Clear
GENEVA	18	64	73	Cloudy
HONG KONG	27	81	89	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	21	70	80	Clear
LONDON	12	54	73	Clear
LOS ANGELES	17	63	78	Cloudy
MADRID	15	59	91	Clear
MECCA	27	81	112	Clear
MONTREAL	14	57	73	Cloudy
MOSCOW	16	61	81	Clear
NEW DELHI	27	81	85	Cloudy
NEW YORK	20	68	30	Cloudy
PARIS	16	61	77	Clear
ROME	19	66	35	Clear
SYDNEY	11	52	18	Fair
TOKYO	24	75	31	Clear
VIENNA	16	61	77	Clear

